



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

440 West 200 South, Suite 500

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
3100 (UT922000)

CERTIFIED MAIL – 91 7199 9991 7033 9338 0765
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Michael P. Wynn
275 Aspen Avenue
Moab, Utah 84532

Re: Request to Exclude Certain Lease Parcels from the May 20, 2014, Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Dear Mr. Wynn:

On February 11, 2014, we received your letter requesting that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) exclude two parcels containing private surface and federal mineral estate lands from inclusion at the competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for May 20, 2014. The two parcels you have requested that this office exclude from the May 2014 lease sale are designated as parcels UTU90303 (UT0214-204) (“parcel 204”) and UTU90305 (UT0214-206) (“parcel 206”).

In your letter, you expressed your concern that radioactive radon byproducts may be released “as a result of proposed drilling operations on those parcels.” You stated that the lands west of parcel 204 are known to have deposits of uranium and vanadium ore at the “700 foot level.”

When oil and gas wells are drilled, the operators must comply with seven “Onshore Oil and Gas Orders” that were established by the BLM in order to regulate oil and gas operations on public lands. These orders provide protective measures for the oil and gas resource, the environment and the public. Onshore Oil and Gas Order 2 was established for drilling operations. In that Order, at Section III (B) for “Cementing and Casing Requirements,” operators are required to case and cement well bores in order to protect and/or isolate all usable water zones, lost circulation zones, abnormally pressured zones, and any *prospectively valuable deposits of minerals* (emphasis added). Any known uranium/vanadium zones would be protected from release or contamination through the use of the required casing and cementing materials and the un-controlled release of radon into the environment would also be prevented. During the drilling operation itself, there could be a small release of uranium/vanadium-bearing materials, including radon, where the drill would produce rock cuttings through mineralized and un-mineralized zones alike. We have enclosed a copy of Onshore Oil and Gas Order 2 for your information.

Based on the information discussed above, we believe that the exclusion of parcels 204 and 206 from the May 20, 2014, competitive oil and gas lease sale is unwarranted. We appreciate your concern and hope that the information we have provided is useful and addresses your concerns for the proposed lease sale in the vicinity of your property. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Ford of my staff at (801) 539-4040.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jenna Whitlock for

Juan Palma
State Director

Enclosure:

1. Copy of Onshore Oil and Gas Order 2